



MEMORANDUM



From: Michigan Association of School Boards
Michigan Education Association
Middle Cities Education Association
Michigan Association of School Administrators
Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators
AFT Michigan
Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association
Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals



RE: Legislation with negative effects on the School Aid Fund

Date: December 2, 2014



We write today in opposition to multiple bills under consideration this week which would have negative effects on the School Aid Fund and local property tax revenue. Three different House Committees are considering bills to cut property tax exemptions:



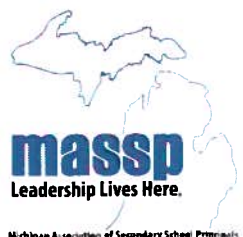
- Senate Bill 697 – House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure – creates a property tax exemption for nonprofit street railways.
- House Bill 5838 – House Committee on Tax Policy – creates a property tax exemption for sportsmen clubs who use their property for charitable purposes during the year.
- Senate Bill 52 – House Committee on Appropriations – revising the property tax exemption for qualified forest properties.



While each of these bills may seem like only a small decrease to property tax revenue and the School Aid Fund, our concerns lie in the bigger picture. When they are added to the many other policies recently passed and being considered, they continue to erode the school aid fund and add up to a significant amount of money over time. Seventeen bills have been signed into law this session alone which total over \$161 million cut to the SAF.



We urge you to look very closely at this bill and similar ones and the collateral damage they have over time. Our schools will continue to see cuts if the School Aid Fund does not receive the revenue necessary to support our students and communities.



We urge you to oppose these bills until the SAF is held harmless by the cuts proposed. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of us.